

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SS-14 CU-04 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 USIA-12 PRS-01 AID-20 SPM-01

HEW-08 RSR-01 /101 W

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R 281430 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9364

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL MUNICH

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BUDAPEST 0747

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: HU SPOP PINT

SUBJECT: HORVATH COMMENTS ON YOUTH PROBLEMS

REF: A) BUDAPEST 641; B) BUDAPEST 733

1. SUMMARY: YOUTH SECRETARY COMMENTS ON MARCH 15 DISTURBANCE AND CALLS FOR CHANGES IN POPULAR ATTITUDES AS BRAKE AGAINST LAGGING BIRTHRATE.

2. TASK OF COMMENTING DURING PARLIAMENTARY SESSION (MARCH 21-23) ON MARCH 15 DISTURBANCE (REF A) GIVEN KISZ FIRST SECRETARY ISTVAN HORVATH. HORVATH CLAIMED THAT, WHILE MAJORITY OF HUNGARIAN YOUTH POSSESS SENSE OF RESPONSIBILITY, SAME COULD NOT BE SAID OF EVERYONE IN TEENAGE AND EARLY TWENTIES GROUPS. REFERRING POINTEDLY TO DISTURBANCE OF PREVIOUS WEEK, HORVATH CONDEMNED ATTITUDES AND CONCEPTIONS " WHICH ARE UNWORTHY OF OUR PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE", ADDING THAT " THEY ARE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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NEITHER HISTORICAL, NOR MODERN, NOR HUNGARIAN." CONTINUING, HE CASTIGATED RICH ASSORTMENT OF DELINQUENT TYPES, WHO " ON WEEKDAYS AND HOLIDAYS CAME FACE TO FACE" WITH RESPONSIBLE YOUNG PEOPLE. LATTER ARE MODERN, INTERNATIONALIST, AND HUNGARIAN, AND THEY " RESPECT SOCIETY INTO WHICH THEY WERE BORN."

3. HORVATH ALSO FOLLOWED UP PREMIER FOCK (REF B) WITH A FEW WORDS ON BIRTH- RATE PROBLEM, POINTING OUT IMPROVEMENTS SHOULD BE SOUGHT IN MATERIAL AND HEALTH CONDITIONS, AS WELL AS IN LEGAL AND MORAL REFORM. BEYOND THAT, POPULAR ATTITUDES HAVE TO BE MODIFIED.

4. HORVATH' S REMARKS MOST CLEARLY AIMED AT MARCH 15 EVENT, BUT JANUARY HOSTAGE- SEIZURE/ HIJACK ATTEMPT BY TWOSONS OF PROMINENT OFFICIALS AT BALASSAGYARMAT UNDOUBTEDLY ALSO ON HIS MIND.

5. ACCORDING TO JUSTICE MINISTER KOROM SPEAKING IN PARLIAMENT MARCH 23, NEITHER JUVENILE NOR VIOLENT CRIME IN HUNGARY HAVE SUBSTANTIALLY DECREASED. HARD TO SAY WHICH MORE DISTASTEFUL TO REGIME. FROM ITS POINT OF VIEW ANY UNREST TIED TO COMMEMORATION OF HISTORIC NATIONAL STRUGGLE MORE THAN UNWELCOME. ON OTHER HAND, DRAMATIC VIOLENT EPISODE IN BALASSAGYARMAT NOT ONLY FOCUSES UNDESIRABLE ATTENTION ON PSYCHOPATHIC ELEMENTS IN SOCIETY, BUT ALSO SPOTLIGHTED ESCAPADES OF CHILDREN OF PARTY AND GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS. SOME OF THE LATTER WERE ALSO INVOLVED IN LAST YEAR' S MARCH DISTURBANCES AND MAY HAVE BEEN IN ONE THIS YEAR.

6. HORVATH' S REMARKS RE LOW BIRTH RATE INDICATE HE KNOWS THERE IS A SERIOUS PROBLEM FACING REGIME IN GENERAL TREND. IT IS OPEN TO QUESTION WHETHR MAJORITY OF HUNGARY' S YOUNGER GENERATION IS SOLID CITIZENS HE SAYS THEY ARE, BUT IT IS CERTAIN AT LEAST THAT THEY ARE NOT PRODUCING ENOUGH CHILDREN. IN A LONG RUN A CONTINUALLY DECLINING BIRTH RATE MAY POSE A GREATER THREAT TO GOALS OF HUNGARY' S COMMUNIST REGIME THAN INCIDENTS SUCH AS ONE ON MARCH 15. PUHAN

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PRAGUE
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